NEWS ITEMS

A valuable bulletin on "Range Improvements in Arizona," by Dr. David Griffiths, expert in charge of field management, has recently been published by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

An interesting paper by Mr. V. K. Chesnut, on "Plants used by the Indians of Mendocino County, California," has been issued as No. 3 of Vol. 7 of the Contributions from the U. S. National Herbarium.

Dr. D. T. MacDougal left New York on January 31, to spend a month or more in Arizona and northern Mexico. He plans to bring back living cacti, yuccas, agaves and other xerophytes for the New York Botanical Garden.

The Southern California Academy of Sciences has begun the publication of a monthly *Bulletin* under the editorship of Dr. Anstruther Davidson. The first two numbers include descriptions and figures of a new *Zauschneria* and of a new *Aster*.

Mr. K. Fujii, of the Imperial University of Tokyo, recently visited Columbia University and the New York Botanical Garden. Mr. Fujii was on his way to the German universities, where he expects to devote three years to botanical studies.

Through a blunder of the printers, something that was used for the second title page of Volume I. of TORREYA was printed on the second page of the cover of our January issue in place of the revised list of officers and our customary editorial statement.

Dr. Edward Palmer, the veteran explorer of Mexico, left Washington January 15, for a collecting expedition in the province of Santiago, Cuba. He will obtain the usual number of sets, which will be offered for sale upon his return. Dr. Palmer will be accompanied by Mr. Charles Louis Pollard and Mr. William Palmer, both of the United States National Museum, who will collect plants, mammals, birds and reptiles for that institution. As the party will pay especial attention to the unexplored mountains in the southern portion of the province, it is expected that the scientific results will be considerable.

The seventh annual meeting of the Vermont Botanical Club

was held at the University of Vermont, Burlington, January 24 and 25. Fully fifty botanists were in attendance, and the membership of the club was increased by the addition of fifteen names. Twenty-three papers covering a wide range of taxonomic, morphological, physiological, and economic subjects were presented. Papers by Messrs. A. L. Andrews, A. J. Grout, and T. E. Hazen added thirteen species of mosses and seven species of algae to the known flora of the state. Interesting results in the cultivation of native flowering plants and ferns were discussed by Miss Smith and Mrs. Horton, and the latter reported finding *Dryopteris simulata* Dav. at Brattleboro—the first record for Vermont. The persistent efforts of Mrs. Flynn, of Burlington, have added materially to the local flora, and, chiefly through the activity of President Brainerd, W. W. Eggleston and W. H. Blanchard, sixty-four species new to the state have been reported since the publication of the revised Flora a little more than a year ago. President Brainerd suggested as the most important problems for the next season the detailed field study of the critical genera, *Crataegus*, *Rubus* and *Viola*. Progress on the maple sap problems, and the subjects of forestry and nature study, and bacterial diseases of plants were treated in several papers. In response to the annual roll call many interesting notes were given. The address by Professor B. L. Robinson, of Harvard University, on "Some Recent Advances in the Classification of the Flowering Plants" was listened to with the greatest interest. Following an introduction outlining the history of taxonomic systems, a lucid exposition of the Eichlerian principles as developed by Engler and Prantl was given, and a brief comment on the new system of van Tieghem was added. The officers of the Club were reëlected as follows: President Ezra Brainerd, of Middlebury College, president; Mr. C. G. Pringle, vice-president; Professor L. R. Jones, secretary. The field meeting of the club next summer will probably take the form of an excursion to the islands and shores of Lake Champlain.—[T. E. H.]